

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A surgical process for removing the third phalanx of a feline, and most commonly a housecat, while reducing bleeding, swelling, pain and tissue deficit. A circumferential incision is formed on the epidermis of the ungual crest and traction is applied to the epidermis in a cranial direction. This exposes the extensor tendon and synovium, which are incised by the laser from a dorsal position aimed in a palmar direction. While applying traction to the third phalanx in a palmar direction, the collateral ligaments are ablated, permitting further disarticulation of the PII-PIII joint. Finally, the flexor tendon and tissue of the pad are incised by the laser from a dorsal position, permitting removal of the third phalanx. The declaw site is then covered with the redundant epithelium preserved in this process.